

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 189252

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT LAGOS 9180 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO LONDON USUN NY KADUNA JUL 25.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 9180

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, NI, SHUM

SUBJECT: CABINET RESHUFFLE

REF: A) LAGOS 8732; B) LAGOS 8878

1. THE RUMORS REPORTED REFTEL B WERE CONFIRMED YESTERDAY (JULY 24) WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CABINET RESHUFFLE, THE RESIGNATIONS OF TWO COMMISSIONERS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF FOUR NEW CIVILIAN COMMISSIONERS. THREE MINISTRIES WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO SUPREME HEADQUARTERS.

2. ACCORDING TO DAILY TIMES, JULY 25, ALHAJI IBRAHIM EL-YAKUBU, COMMISSIONER OF WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES, HAS RESIGNED AND THE WATER RESOURCES MINISTRY HAS BEEN COMBINED WITH AGRICULTURE. THE OTHER COMMISSIONER TO RESIGN, WITH NO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 189252

REASON BEING OFFERED, IS ALHAJI KACHOLLA BARKO, MINES AND POWER. MR. UMARU SHINKAFI, WHO HAS BEEN REPLACED AS COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, HAS NOT BEEN SHIFTED TO ANOTHER MINISTRY NOR HAS HIS RESIGNATION BEEN ANNOUNCED.

3. THE NEW COMMISSIONERS ARE:

COMMISSIONER OF CIVIL AVIATION: BALARABE ISMAILA, FORMERLY SECRETARY TO THE KANO STATE GOVERNMENT.
COMMISSIONER FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS: ALHAJI M. D. YUSUF, FORMERLY INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE.
COMMISSIONER FOR MINES AND POWER: SHEHU KANGIWA, PERMANENT SECRETARY, SOKOTO STATE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.
COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT: SHEHU WUNTI, FORMERLY COMMISSIONER FOR WORKS AND HOUSING, BAUCHI STATE.

EXCEPT FOR THE NEW COMMISSIONER OF CIVIL AVIATION, THESE APPOINTMENTS ARE EFFECTIVE AS OF THE DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT. BALARABE ISMAILA'S APPOINTMENT WILL BE EFFECTIVE AT THE END OF AUGUST WHEN HIS SUCCESSOR AS SMG TO KANO STATE GOVERNMENT WILL COME ON BOARD.

4. FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE NEW FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES - MR. B.O.W. MAFENI
CIVIL AVIATION - MR. BALARABE ISMAILA
COMMUNICATIONS - MR. OBERU ARIBIAH
DEFENCE - REPORT TO SUPREME HDQTRS.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DR. OMONIYI ADEWOYE
EDUCATION - DR. GARRICK B. LETON
ESTABLISHMENTS - MR. DAN ISOKRARI
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS - MAJ. GEN. HENRY E.O. ADEFOPE
FINANCE - MAJ. GEN. JAMES J. OLULEYE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 189252

HEALTH - DR. PETER OGBANG
INDUSTRIES - DR. ROLAND ADERMI
INFORMATION - REPORT TO SUPREME HDQTRS.
INTERNAL AFFAIRS - ALHAJI M.D. YUSSUF
JUSTICE - DR. AUGUSTINE NNAMANI (ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION)
LABOR, YOUTH, SPORTS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT - MR. SYLVANUS WILLIAMS
MINES AND POWER - MR. SHEHU KANGIWA
PETROLEUM RESOURCES - REPORT TO SUPREME HDQTRS.
SPECIAL DUTIES IN CHARGE OF FEDERAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - MR. MOBOLAJI AJOSE-ADEOGUN
TRADE - PROF. ISAAC OSISIUGU
TRANSPORT - MR. SHEHU WUNTI
WORKS, HOUSING, URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT - MAJ. GEN. MOHAMMED SHUWA
SECRETARY TO THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT - ALHAJI ALIMAN CIROMA.

5. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT HAS BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON ALL EXCEPT COMMISSIONERS ISMAILA, KANGIWA AND WUNTI. THE ONLY INFORMATION WE HAVE ON THESE THREE IS THAT KANGIWA WAS A LAWYER

BY PROFESSION UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE SOKOTO MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN AUGUST 1975; ISMAILA WAS AN ENGINEER BEFORE JOINING THE KANO STATE GOVERNMENT; AND WUNTI WAS APPOINTED TO THE RENT PANEL IN JANUARY 1976. THEY DO NOT APPEAR IN THE RECENTLY ISSUED WHO'S WHO IN NIGERIA, 1978 (COPIES HAVE BEEN POUCHED); THE REASON FOR THEIR APPOINTMENTS WOULD APPEAR TO BE IN THEIR VERY ANONYMITY.

6. THE APPOINTMENT OF MAJ. GEN. ADEFOPE AS COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CAME AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO RUMOR MONGERS AND FMG WATCHERS. PLEASANT AND EASYGOING, HE HAS BEEN FRIENDLY BUT NOT PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE. HIS TOTAL LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WILL PROBABLY RESULT IN HIS MAINTAINING A CONSIDERABLY LOWER PROFILE THAN HIS PREDECESSOR.
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PAGE 04 STATE 189252

7. M.D. YUSUF'S APPOINTMENT TO THE INTERIOR PORTFOLIO UNDERLINES THE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE INTERIOR WILL PLAY DURING THE COMING YEAR AS KEEPER OF LAW, ORDER AND STABILITY. YUSUF IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE CLOSE TO THE INNER CIRCLE AND RESPECTED, IF NOT FEARED, BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHERE ALL THE SKELETONS ARE BURIED.

WYMAN
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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